



CROSSROADS

MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE UNIVERSITY | SPRING 2018

True BEElievers

Hives on Prairie Land Produce
Research Opportunities

Following the Evidence

Investigation Discovery Series Features
Criminal Justice Chairman

CLEVELAND ROCKS!

Jun Francisco, '83, oversees iconic
Rock & Roll Hall of Fame museum collection



Missouri Southern will give a nod to Norden this fall during its 22nd International Semester. This image of the famed Fjords was taken this spring by Brett Dorrance, '18.



FROM THE EDITOR

“You miss 100 percent of the shots you don’t take.”

It was a quote by “The Office” boss Michael Scott, who attributed it to himself (he was actually quoting hockey legend Wayne Gretzky). Funny stuff, but wise words nonetheless.

In this issue of Crossroads, you’ll meet alumni, students and faculty members who found their calling, followed their dreams and took those shots when they saw them.

There’s Jun Francisco, who discovered his passion for history while attending Missouri Southern – a starting point that led him to helping the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame develop its iconic collection.

And then there’s Ally Fisher, a senior who jumped at the chance to be part of the Disney College Program and had “the best time” of her life. You’ll also meet Tim Wilson, head of the Criminal Justice Department, whose expertise was sought by producers for an Investigation Discovery series; and Dr. Mary Kilmer, who looked at the university’s prairie and saw a place buzzing with potential.

All of these people saw their shot and took it. (There’s probably an easy “Hamilton” quote here, too.)

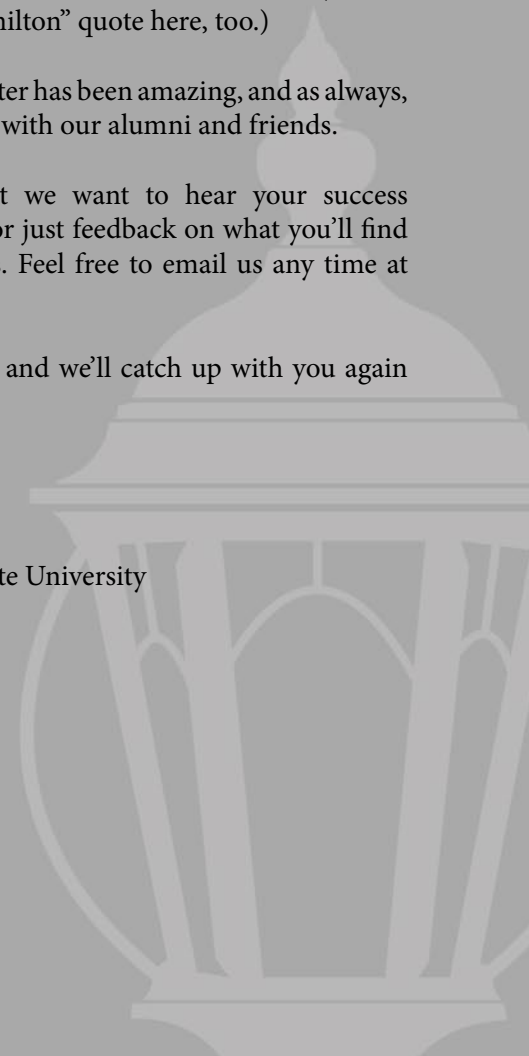
The Spring 2018 semester has been amazing, and as always, we’re happy to share it with our alumni and friends.

Please remember that we want to hear your success stories, news, photos or just feedback on what you’ll find in the following pages. Feel free to email us any time at crossroads@mssu.edu.

Have a great summer, and we’ll catch up with you again this fall!

Editor

Crossroads Magazine
Missouri Southern State University



CLEVELAND ROCKS

Cover story, page 30:

CLEVELAND ROCKS!

Jun Francisco, '83, oversees
iconic Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
museum collection

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A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

DR. ALAN D. MARBLE
CLASS OF 1979



As a student at Missouri Southern back in the 1970s, I never dreamed that I would one day have the honor of serving as its president. I still smile as I walk through our buildings and see the very places where my educational journey began and so many deep and personal memories were created.

How do you begin to care about something? We all have memories and experiences that are meaningful to us, and those feelings are what fuel our passions and build our loyalty. It's why some of our alumni who attended decades ago still visit our campus from time to time, or make gifts to our Foundation for programs that are important to them.

For many of us, the two things that make us realize how much we really care are our families and our careers. For me, Missouri Southern is a major connection to both.

When I returned to this campus in 2013 to accept the presidency, my life quickly became all about MSSU, and it was a joyous occasion because I truly love this university. It's the place where I first encountered the classes and professors who challenged me not just to study and pass tests, but also to appreciate alternative viewpoints, think critically, and solve problems. My Missouri Southern years were very good years. The experiences I had and the memories I forged have been with me throughout my life. Many of the people I met continue to be my close friends today.

Lori and I saw that connection continue when our twin sons, Dexter and Logan, enrolled at MSSU. This spring, it was our great joy to see them cross the stage as graduates. It seems like just yesterday they were taking

their first steps. (Speaking of first steps, we were thrilled to learn recently that our daughter Jessica and her husband, Caleb, will be welcoming a baby this winter - our first grandchild.) Caleb is an MSSU alum also - Lion Pride runs deep in our family.



WITH TWIN SONS DEXTER AND LOGAN



DISCUSSING HIGHER ED BUDGETS
AT THE CAPITAL THIS SPRING

It's a similar feeling of passion and loyalty that has driven me to spend so much time working with Missouri legislators on our institution's need for greater state funding and/or increased tuition revenue. For too many years, MSSU has been at the bottom of the "revenue list" when compared to other Missouri public universities. This problem culminated recently with many important voices supporting a much-needed tuition increase at Missouri Southern, and we remain hopeful that the Missouri General Assembly will increase our appropriations, as well.

It wasn't easy work for any of us, and the reality of our underfunding situation wasn't always something the decision-makers wanted to hear. But month after month, we analyzed the numbers, reduced costs, and advocated tirelessly for this incredible university. And we did it for one simple reason: We love this institution and its students, and we want them to continue to have the best education possible - now, and for generations to come.

Best wishes as you continue to discover the things that give you a sense of passion and loyalty. I trust one of them is the foundation you built at Missouri Southern State University.

Alan D. Marble

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**Crossroads Magazine is
produced by the
Office of University Relations
and Marketing**

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Crossroads is produced
twice a year by the
Office of University Relations
and Marketing and is
distributed to more than
35,000 alumni.

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VOICES OF SOUTHERN



DR. RICHARD SCHOOLER
Dean, School of Health Sciences

Over the last several years, the concept of interprofessional education has become a point of emphasis in healthcare education.

I always tell students that healthcare is a team sport. When nursing or respiratory therapy students go into the workplace, and the first time they respond to a code or the first time they're in the ICU or ER with a critically ill or injured patient, they're going to realize there's a nurse over here, a pharmacy tech there, a physician, a lab tech and radiology tech beside them – they're part of a patient-centered, multidisciplinary team.

Yet when we educated healthcare students, we were teaching in silos.

Today, there are no silos in the healthcare workplace. We have to prepare our students to function effectively as a member of that multidisciplinary team.

I hosted a retreat at my ranch last year with faculty from all six of our School of Health Sciences programs plus MSSU administration, faculty from the social work and laboratory medical science departments, and KCU-Joplin medical school faculty. The focus was on helping all who attended understand what interprofessional education is and why it's so important.

Another point of emphasis in the School of Health Sciences is understanding how we can provide a better educational experience for our students and make our school stronger by working with other programs and resources on campus and in the

healthcare community. We could not operate our clinical programs without the partnerships we have with our clinical training sites throughout the region.

The newest example of this collaboration is in our new B.S. in Healthcare Administration program we plan to begin offering in Fall 2019. When students think about healthcare, they think about the clinical side; most people do. When students think about going into the business field, they think about obtaining a business degree. With this program we're integrating the two, so our graduates can be prepared to go into entry-level positions on the nonclinical or business side of healthcare with a unique educational foundation to support their progress into management and leadership positions.

With collaboration between the School of Health Sciences, Plaster School of Business and other MSSU academic departments, and the regional healthcare business community, we will be able to provide students with a unique undergraduate education that prepares them for entry-level, nonclinical positions in healthcare or for postgraduate programs in healthcare administration or business with a healthcare emphasis.

We can raise the bar on the type of people moving into the nonclinical or business side of healthcare by providing better-prepared graduates. They will have an educational foundation in healthcare business, management, and leadership with insight into what healthcare is all about – patient care...people taking care of people. **C**



It's a 'Connection for Life'

**Office of Alumni and Constituent
Relations** spends spring semester
strengthening ties



HEALTHCARE APPRECIATION AT
FREEMAN HEALTH SYSTEM



KANSAS CITY



SOUTHERN SOCIAL



MOSO MONDAY



KANSAS CITY



SOUTHERN SOCIAL

The Office of Alumni and Constituent Relations stayed busy this spring keeping up with Missouri Southern's graduates, showing support for Lions at work, on the court and elsewhere, and honoring those who paved the way for the generations of students who followed in their footsteps.

Alumni were on hand to help send off the men's basketball team as they prepared for their quarterfinal match in the MIAA Tournament.

Food and drinks were served two hours before tipoff at the Kansas City Downtown Marriott, and those on hand wished the team well as they departed for the game.

Southern Social, held April 3, was a fun-filled night for ladies that raised funds for scholarships offered by the Alumni Association. The event featured 20 themed tables, dinner, a silent auction and fashion show.

Alumni employed in the healthcare field were honored during recent appreciation events at Mercy Joplin and Freeman Health System, while the School of Education took center stage during a MOSO Monday event on April 30.

An after-hours event for St. Louis alumni was held on May 4, with a family outing at the St. Louis Zoo the following day.

Lee Elliff Pound, director of Alumni and Constituent Relations, said the variety of activities reflects the diversity of Missouri Southern's graduates.

"We provide a variety of programs for our alumni to maintain this really important relationship," she said. "We serve a wide variety

of constituents, and our efforts to make sure they remember how important they are to their alma mater reflects that."

Keeping that "connection for life" is also reflected during Spring Commencement ceremonies – where the front row has become a place of honor. The Alumni Association hosted the second annual Golden Grads event as part of Spring 2018 Commencement on Saturday, May 12.

Alumni from MSSU and the former Joplin Junior College (Classes of 1939 through 1968) are invited to attend Golden Grads each year. Participants are given special medallions to wear, as well as golden gowns. The day begins with a continental breakfast in the Ralph L. Gray Alumni Center. The Golden Grads then take a bus to the commencement ceremony in the Leggett & Platt Center, where they are seated together in the front row.

"We've loved having our Joplin Junior College graduates join us, so we've made this an annual celebration," said Pound. "Our JJC alumni are an integral part of the foundation upon which we were built, and this is one way in which we can honor them." C



Pride & PURPOSE

THREE HONORED FOR
CONTRIBUTIONS TO MSSU

Three individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the success and growth of Missouri Southern were honored during Pride & Purpose Day on Saturday, April 21.

The two Spirit of Service recipients were **John Cochran** of Moberly, Mo., who graduated from MSSU in 1978, and **Lorraine Whittington** of Joplin, who graduated in 1982.

The Lion Hearted recipient was **Richard W. Massa** of Joplin, former chairman of the Communications Department and director of the Institute of International Studies at MSSU.



JOHN COCHRAN, '78 **2018 SPIRIT OF SERVICE RECIPIENT**

John Cochran is a 1978 graduate of Missouri Southern, graduating with a degree in secondary education. A transfer student from Moberly Community College, John played Missouri Southern basketball for two years, as a guard.

Born and raised in the Moberly area, he purchased the Valentine Agency from Jack Valentine in 1995. He is the agency owner and is licensed in all areas of insurance.

In addition to volunteer service in the Moberly area, he has served Missouri Southern in a variety of areas including: Leadership Annual Giving donor for MSSU, underwriting for the Alumni Association bus trip to St. Louis Cardinal baseball game, donating to the men's basketball trip to Puerto Rico, donating to the Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief fund, donating to the Coach Corn Court project, and making many other donations over the years to MSSU.

LORRAINE WHITTINGTON, '82 **2018 SPIRIT OF SERVICE RECIPIENT**

Lorraine Whittington graduated from Missouri Southern in 1982 with a degree in Business Administration. After graduating, she joined the Business and Professional Women Inc. organization in the mid-1980s, obtaining the status of State President. She strives to provide educational speakers to all those in her presence with information vital for good leadership and positive citizenship within the community.

She joined the Epsilon Sigma Alpha (ESA) Women International and has spent 50 years serving in this organization, earning the position of state president.

In 1992, she joined the American Association of University Women and served as president of the Joplin branch for six years. During her presidency, she assisted the group by hosting a Science, Technology,



RICHARD W. MASSA **LION HEARTED RECIPIENT 2018**

Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) seminar for local high-school students. The program was such a success it has been repeated several times. She was also instrumental in starting a holiday auction to raise funds for scholarships to MSSU.

Lorraine currently volunteers as a docent at Spiva Center for the Arts and is a strong supporter of Pro Musica, Joplin Little Theater and the MSSU Lantern Society. She has supported Missouri Southern through donations to the Mission Hills Mansion restoration process and has been a loyal annual fund contributor over the years. She is a lifetime member of the MSSU Alumni Association.

Richard Massa, a 1950 graduate of Joplin High School, earned degrees in journalism at the University of Missouri and began his teaching career at the university's School of Journalism. He served in the military and taught in Mississippi and Oklahoma.

In 1972, he joined the faculty of Missouri Southern State University as an associate professor of journalism and adviser to the student newspaper, The Chart. In 1979-80 he served as interim head of the Department of Language and Literature and then as acting head of the Department of English. In 1980 he became the first head of the newly established Department of Communications (which he founded). During his 19-year tenure as department head, he established the radio station KXMS and the television station KGCS. In 1996 he became the first director of the newly established Institute of International Studies, remaining also as head of the Department of Communications.

In this dual position he worked for expansion of foreign language education and development of the first bilateral agreements between Missouri Southern and a number of universities in Europe and Africa, and originated a number of programs still in existence. He received the Outstanding Teacher Award in 1982. In 1996, he received the Missouri Governor's Award for Excellence in Education. He retired in 1999 and was awarded the title of professor emeritus. **C**

TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR ANY OF OUR ALUMNI AWARDS, VISIT WWW.MSSU.EDU/ALUMNI



NEW HOME FOR MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT BEGINS TAKING SHAPE

The once quiet hillside behind Reynolds Hall at Missouri Southern is now the site of a flurry of construction activity as the university embarks on its next major building project.

A new service road runs along the base of the hill, allowing access for the heavy equipment and workers who will build Nixon Hall, which will serve as the new home for the mathematics program at Missouri Southern.

Crossland Construction is overseeing the development of the 20,000-square-foot, three-story building, which will be located on the south side of Reynolds.

“They’re in the process of doing the site work, which includes cutting away the hillside and shoring it up to hold things in place while they do all the foundation work,” said Robert Harrington, director of the Physical Plant at Missouri Southern. “They’re getting ready to drill all the piers for the building.”

Designed by Paragon Architecture, the new building will be connected via a skywalk to the main hall of Reynolds’ second floor. It will house mathematics classrooms, faculty offices, a computer lab and student study areas.

“The design for the building will replicate a lot of what we saw in

the recent renovations to the first and third floors of Reynolds,” said Robert Harrington, Physical Plant director. “There will be an open atrium from the first to third floors and two different computer bars.

“The lighting in the areas in front of the offices will be in geometric figures, and the carpeting in the center of each classroom will have a mathematical design to it.”

Harrington said that input from the mathematics faculty was sought from the very beginning of the project.

“We were involved through all phases of the design and development, including the interior finishes for the classrooms,” said Dr. Kerry Johnson, chairman of the Mathematics Department. “Our choices focused on creating a comfortable learning environment for

our students.”

The \$8.1 million construction project is scheduled for completion in time for the start of the Spring 2019 semester, said Harrington.

Last fall, the university’s Board of Governors voted unanimously to name the new building for former Gov. Jay Nixon, citing his efforts to garner bipartisan support for the critical renovations needed in Reynolds Hall.





FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION RETURNS TO MISSOURI SOUTHERN

After two decades, the city's annual Fourth of July celebration will return to Fred G. Hughes Stadium at Missouri Southern State University.

The university's Board of Governors approved the plan for a collaborative celebration with the city.

Jared Bruggeman, director of athletics at Missouri Southern, said that the move comes following conversations with Joplin Parks & Recreation.

"This will be a great collaborative effort between Missouri Southern and the city, and will show what we can do when we join forces," Bruggeman said.

Paul Bloomberg, director of Joplin Parks & Recreation, said the Fourth of July event had been moved to Landreth Park from Missouri Southern when he came to Joplin in 1999.

"Moving it back to Missouri Southern will be a win-win for everyone," he said. "It will be so much easier for people to get in and out, and the stadium will be a great place to watch the fireworks show."

Bloomberg said games, live music and food trucks will also be part of the event.



JOPLIN'S INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, July 4th | 6:00 p.m. | Fred G. Hughes Stadium | Missouri Southern State University



KCU TO UTILIZE RESEARCH LAB ON MSSU CAMPUS

Missouri Southern's partnership with the Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences' Joplin campus was strengthened this spring with the signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding that creates a dedicated campus lab space for KCU researchers.

Located in the Reynolds Annex building, the former biology lab will allow for research collaborations between Missouri Southern and KCU faculty and students, said Dr. Paula Carson, provost and vice president of academic affairs at MSSU.

"There's also the possibility for research collaborations between KCU and our non-science faculty as well," she said.

The initial term of the agreement will last six years. Missouri Southern ensured that the basic infrastructure of the lab met KCU's requirements, while that school will provide the necessary equipment for faculty and student research.

ENDOWMENT TO HELP RNs GET BACHELOR'S DEGREES

A new endowment established at Missouri Southern will help pave the way for registered nurses employed by Freeman Health System to continue their professional development with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

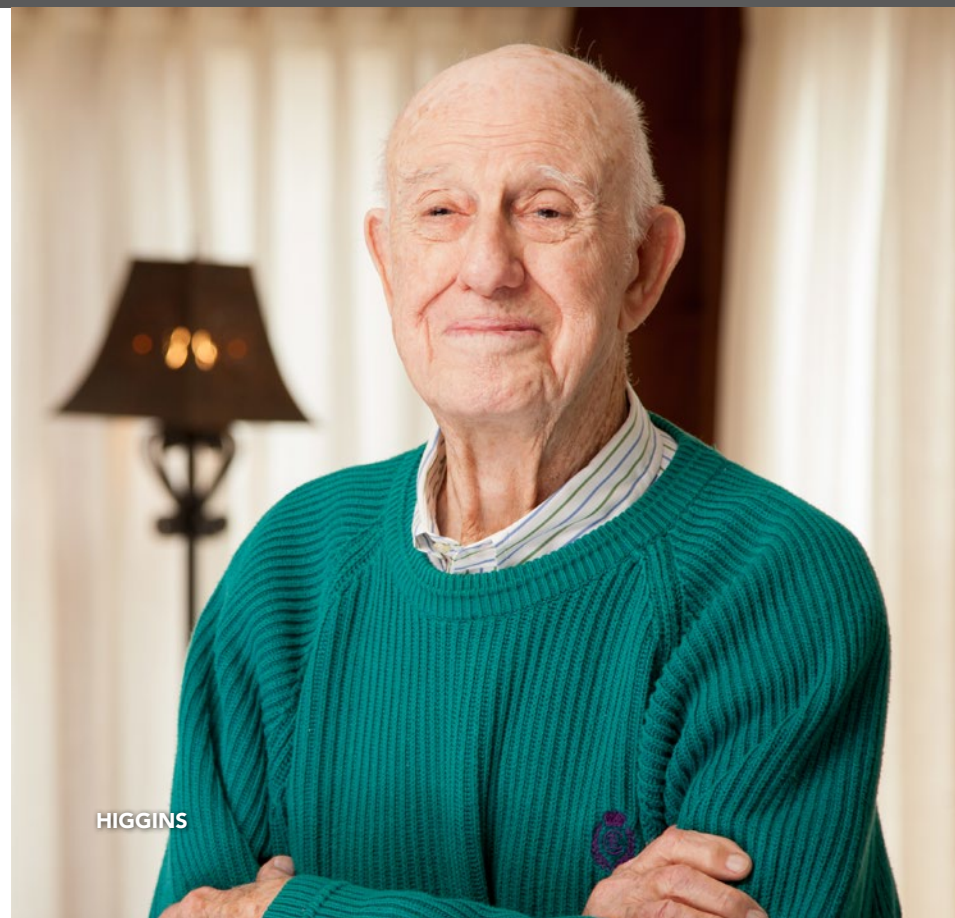
Through the \$100,000 endowment, the Bob & Bea Higgins Nursing Scholarship will create four scholarships per year for RNs at Freeman working to attain their BSN.

A Joplin Junior College graduate, WWII Air Force pilot and former Joplin Postmaster, Higgins is known for his willingness to step forward and offer service whenever he sees a need within the community. He's a Kiwanis member, and a former board member for the Joplin Family Y and Freeman Health System. He has served as a Cub Scout Master at Irving School, as a member of the Financial Bank Board and helped to raise funds for the Eagles Nest youth center.

In 1974, he was named Outstanding Alum; in 1990, he was recognized as Joplin's Citizen of the Year.

Kevin Greim, Missouri Southern's associate vice president for development, praised Higgins for his years of service to the university, including fundraising for projects such as the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center and artificial turf at Fred G. Hughes Stadium, and serving as a past member of the Alumni Board and the Board of Governors.

"Bob has been an advocate for and a friend of Missouri Southern for decades," said Greim. "He has lived his life with a spirit of service to his country, his community and his university. With this



HIGGINS

scholarship endowment, he is leaving a legacy of generosity that will last forever."

The creation of the new endowment allowed Higgins to assist in two areas he has been passionate about throughout his career.

"Having seen the need to support students at Missouri Southern as well as the professionals working at Freeman, this was an area where I was pleased to be able to help," he said.



JEWSBURY APPOINTED TO STATE HUMAN RESOURCES BOARD

Evan Jewsbury, director of the Human Resources Department at Missouri Southern, was recently selected to serve on the board of the Missouri College and University Professional Association – Human Resources (MCUPA-HR)

"This chapter is specific to university HR professionals throughout the state who have an interest in professional development opportunities in the field," said Jewsbury.

MCUPA-HR promotes effective management and development through quality products and services to diverse institutions in higher education. The association advocates for the principle that employees are the key to success for each institution, and that each individual has inherent worth in the workplace.

Jewsbury's term on the board will begin July 1 and run through June 30, 2020.

ROSENBERG APPOINTED, GIPSON REAPPOINTED TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Two appointments to the Board of Governors at Missouri Southern were recently announced.

Dr. Benjamin Rosenberg, a pediatric dentist from Joplin, succeeds outgoing board member James Fleischaker. An active member of the community, he has served two terms on the Joplin City Council, as president of the Joplin Public School Board and the Boys and Girls Club, and is also a former member of the Joplin Airport Board.

A graduate of the University of Oklahoma, he earned his Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

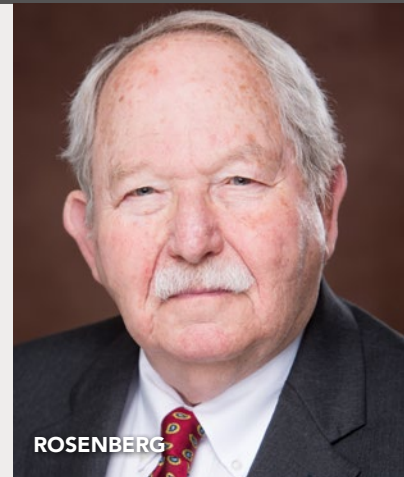
“I’ve served on several boards and commissions, and the university’s Board of Governors is another area where I wanted to see if I could be of help,” said Rosenberg.

Bill Gipson, vice chair of the Board of Governors, was reappointed by the governor to a new term on the board.

The Shell Knob resident was appointed to his first term in 2017. He is retired from Empire District Electric Company, where he served as president and CEO. He is an active member of the Missouri Southern Foundation board, where he served as chair and vice chair.

He earned his associate’s degree in computer science from MSSU in 1978, and his bachelor’s in management technology in 1985.

Both board appointments are for six-year terms.



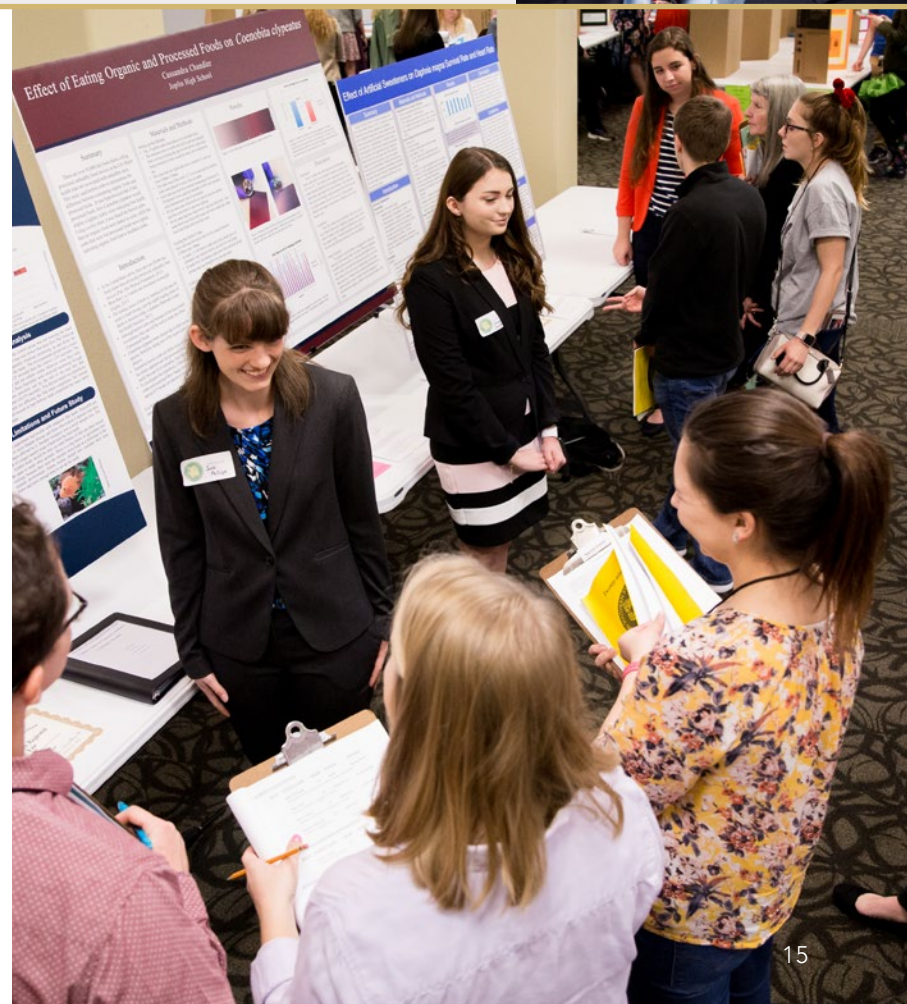
MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHER FOR COMPETITIONS

Area students had opportunities to show off their knowledge and research skills during a series of competitions hosted by Missouri Southern.

The 29th annual Missouri Southern Regional Science Fair was held in March, drawing nearly 100 entries from area students in grades 5-12. They competed in categories such as behavioral and social sciences, chemistry and biochemistry, physics and astronomy, and plant sciences.

Earlier that month, there were more than 140 entries on display for the Region 6 History Day event, hosted by the Social Sciences Department. They tackled the theme of “Conflict and Compromise in History,” with students exploring topics such as the Civil War, the labor movement and the civil rights struggle.

And in February, students from across Southwest Missouri competed in science, technology, engineering and mathematics events during the Regional Technology Student Association Conference, hosted by the Engineering Technology Department. Events included technology problem-solving, robotic dance, forensic technology, and technology bowl.



NEW SCHOLARSHIP TO BENEFIT LAMAR, MILLER STUDENTS

Thanks to the generosity of two Missouri Southern alums, students from Lamar and Miller High Schools will receive new scholarships to attend MSSU.

Steve and Sharon (Ramey) Chandler of Germantown, Tennessee, have established an endowed scholarship which will be awarded to graduating seniors from each high school. The first recipient of the Sharon Ramey Chandler Scholarship is Jacob Shields from Lamar. Lynna Hadlock of Miller is the first recipient of the Steve Chandler Scholarship.

Recipients are eligible to receive the scholarship for four years while at Southern. A new graduating senior will receive one each year meaning that eventually, four students from each high school will simultaneously receive the scholarships.

“The generosity shown by the Chandlers is amazing,” said Kevin Greim, associate vice president for development. “Their philanthropy is benefitting three schools that are important to them. Students from Lamar and Miller who attend MSSU will forever benefit from this endowment.”

Sharon (Ramey) Chandler is a 1974 graduate of Missouri Southern and a Lamar High School alum. Steve Chandler is a 1975 Missouri Southern graduate and an alum of Miller High School.



ARCHER NAMED DEAN OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Dr. Marsi Archer has been named the new dean of the School of Arts & Sciences at Missouri Southern.

She has served as the school's interim dean since fall of 2017, and was offered the permanent position following an extensive search process. She first joined the Missouri Southern faculty in 1998 as an assistant professor, reaching associate professor status in 2003 and full professor in 2009. She served as department chair from 2010 until her appointment as interim dean.

She is a member of the planning committee for the Yours to Lose – Advanced Medical School Acceptance Program, helping to develop admissions criteria as well as curriculum for the pre-med program in conjunction with KCU's new Joplin medical school. She also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Missouri Center for Advanced Power and as the faculty athletics representative at MSSU.

“The School of Arts & Sciences has a long history of academic excellence and student success in a wide range of programs,” said Archer. “I have enjoyed working with the faculty, staff and students this past year and look forward to the continued growth and opportunities in our school.”

Dr. Paula Carson, provost and vice president for academic affairs, said Archer's services in an interim role for the past year allowed her to demonstrate the strengths and abilities she brings to the table.

“She built an effective leadership style, the camaraderie and a vision needed to bring this school forward,” said Carson.



DONOR PRESENTS 3D PRINTERS TO TWO DEPARTMENTS

Students in the Industrial Engineering Technology and Art departments at MSSU will be keeping pace with changes in the printing industry thanks to the donation of three new 3D printers.

Mike Parrot, co-founder of Nemotech in Joplin, recently donated the Nautilus 3D printers to the university. MSSU celebrated the gift with a press conference in April in which students and faculty got to watch three-dimensional products being printed.

“Not that long ago, maybe five to 10 years, 3D printers were prohibitively expensive,” he said. “But they’ve evolved in a big way, using open-source technology to create lower-cost printers that offer the same quality as more expensive models.”

The field of 3D printing is allowing manufacturers to create prototypes, custom tools and parts and drastically reduce development times. Artistic-minded students can also find new ways to approach their craft, he said.

“It’s a really fast-paced industry,” said Parrot. “Now, students at MSSU will have access to technology that is finding its way into a lot of different areas.”



Partnership allows students to work, study at the Magic Kingdom

Interns from Missouri Southern are living and working at the “Happiest Place on Earth” thanks to an institutional partnership between Missouri Southern and the Disney College program.

Dr. Richard Miller, director of the James R. Spradling Center at MSSU, has spearheaded the initiative to provide students with an unforgettable internship experience.

“We’re now in our second cohort,” Miller says. “So far, a total of seven students have been accepted and have taken advantage of the program.”

Students from all majors are eligible. They must be in at least their second semester of classes and meet academic qualifications.

Once accepted into the Disney College Program, students work in the park and resort in Orlando, Fla., take part in college coursework and meet and live with people from all over the world.

Ally Fisher, a senior health promotion and wellness major from Lees Summit, recently took part in the program. She says the interns lived in on-site apartments on the Disney campus.

“They have lots of activities nearly every evening,” Fisher says. “We got free entry into all the Disney parks. If we weren’t working, we were out in the parks playing.”

Fisher says she met people from all over the world including Australia, China, Korea, Portugal, Brazil, and several other countries

“It was the best time of my life,” she says. “It was a happy, positive, exciting atmosphere. It encouraged me to work hard and be a leader.” **C**



**ALLY FISHER,
SENIOR**



ROARS_{HEARD} 'ROUND THE WORLD

Members of the
LION FAMILY show
PRIDE wherever
they travel

COLORADO



KANSAS CITY

NEW ORLEANS



KANSAS CITY



VIRGINIA BEACH



ARLINGTON, TX





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'A kind of time capsule'

Students assisting with
historic preservation project

A trio of Missouri Southern students are playing active roles in the renovation of three historic Joplin homes.

Located in the Murphysburg area west of Third and Main Streets, the homes – built in the 1890s – will eventually be shining examples of historic residential rehabilitation in Missouri.

The Schifferdecker, Zelleken, and Rogers houses, all located in the vicinity of Fourth Street and Sergeant Avenue, are being intensely studied, restored and fitted with period furniture. Those who eventually view them will be taken back to the fin de siècle, the time of the Spanish American War, the World's Columbian Exposition and the presidencies of Harrison, Cleveland and McKinley.

The effort has been spearheaded by Joplin businessman David Humphreys, who created the non-profit Joplin Historical Neighborhoods, Inc. organization in 2017. Missouri Southern State University's Community Historian Brad Belk serves as director of the homes.

Belk oversees day-to-day operations, researches building history, creates educational programs and curates the collections, and handles a myriad assortment of other jobs.

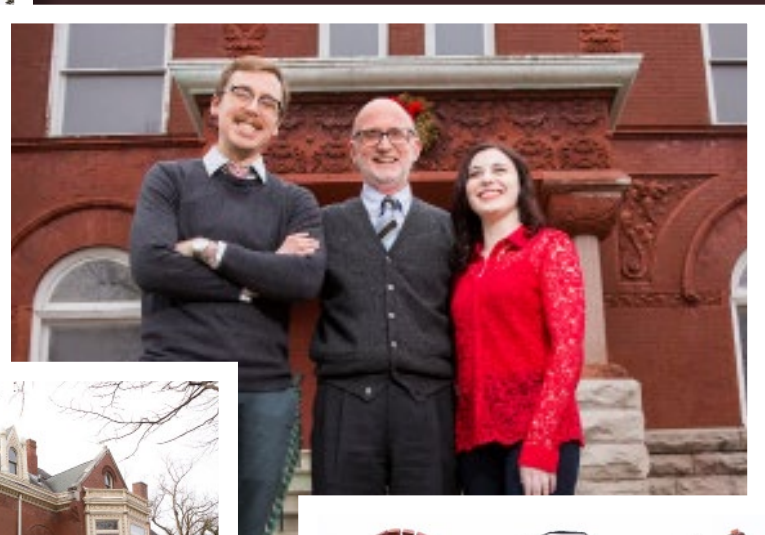
"The mission of Joplin Historical Neighborhoods, Inc. is to restore, preserve and commemorate the former residences and associated buildings of Charles Schifferdecker, Edward Zelleken and Alfred Harrison Rogers," Belk says, adding that the renovation work will take three years.

Three Missouri Southern Honors program students – Katy Kay Williams, Garrett Pekarek and Jaycee Vangle – are working as student assistants on the project.

Williams has a unique interest in one of the homes. She actually grew up in the Schifferdecker House, and only moved out in March of last year.

"It rotted after a fire for 11 years, until my mother, Joy Williams of Joplin, purchased it," she says. "We worked very hard to get it back as close to the original as possible. When we went to look at the house, we heard rushing water. We found out it was coming down the staircase."

Pekarek, a sociology major, says he's interested in the Mur-

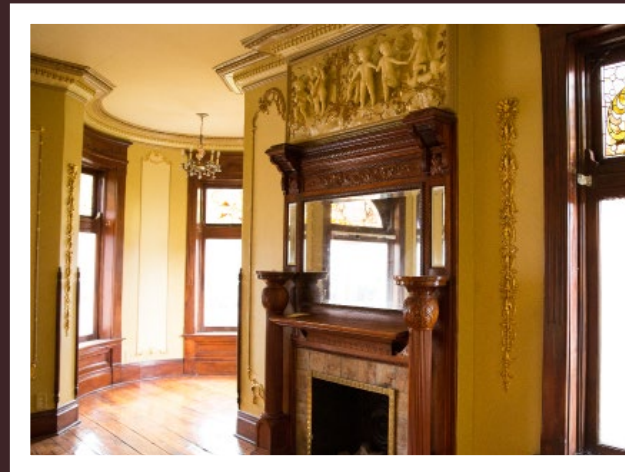


physburg area, especially how many of the big family dwellings changed into apartment complexes over the years.

Jaycee Vangle, an education major, says she has always had an interest in downtown Joplin and the history and preservation of architecture.

"After seeing so many buildings demolished in the last 40-50 years, it is really important to preserve houses for future generations," says Vangle.

"It's kind of neat to see the hidden passageways the homes had for servants. And the woodworking is gorgeous. The homes are a kind of time capsule that lets you see how life was different in the 1890s." **C**



What's in a name?

Charles Schifferdecker and Edward Zelleken were partners in a brewing business in Baxter Springs and later moved to Joplin. Schifferdecker owned Electric Park, a Coney Island-like area of bright lights, rides and structures that existed until 1914. Today, the only remaining structure is the world-renowned Tri-State Mineral Museum.

Alfred Harrison Rogers was a lawyer and businessman who ran an area-wide trolley rail system and became the president of The Joplin Globe. All three men are now buried in Mount Hope Cemetery, located south of Webb City.

Following the EVIDENCE

Criminal Justice chairman appears on **Investigation Discovery** series

It's not a matter of who's guilty or who isn't.

When Dr. Tim Wilson examines a crime scene, guilt or innocence doesn't enter into the equation at all. It's about letting the evidence at hand tell a story. Hairs, shoe prints, a tiny drop of blood are all part of that story – one that could be called “The Truth of What Happened.”

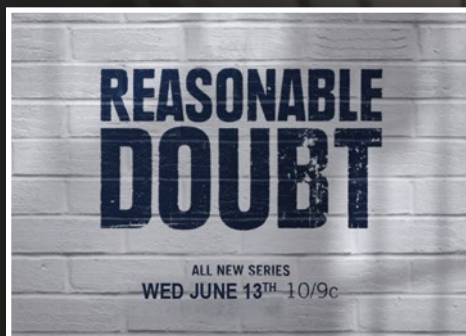
Wilson, chairman of the Criminal Justice Department at Missouri Southern, recently lent his crime scene investigation expertise to the Investigation Discovery series “Reasonable Doubt.” He was featured on two episodes of the series' second season this spring.

“The premise of the show is they have a retired homicide detective and a defense attorney who conduct independent investigations,” said Wilson. “What happens is a family whose loved one has been convicted of murder contacts this group to say, ‘We think our son or daughter is innocent. Could you do an investigation?’

They meet with the family, get all the police reports, crime scene photos, medical reports and court transcripts – everything to do with the case – and launch their own investigation.”

Wilson, who teaches crime scene and criminal investigation, has had plenty of field experience. After graduating from Missouri Southern's law enforcement academy in 1998, he worked for the Neosho Police Department, the Jasper County Sheriff's Office and later the Joplin Police Department. His law-enforcement career included conducting crime scene investigations and serving on a SWAT team.

He was contacted by the show's producers to review the physical evidence and offer a professional opinion.



The first case was a two-decade old murder in Missouri, in which the family believed there were other legitimate leads that needed to be followed. The second found him flying to Michigan to review the physical evidence in a more recent case.

“My role was mostly just to look at the evidence to see if there's anything that might have been missed and to test whatever theory the family feels is legitimate,” he said. “Both times I needed to conduct an experiment that had to do with the forensic evidence in the cases.”

For Wilson, the experience wasn't so much about shedding new light on old cases.

“It's more about recognizing how much we have evolved,” he said. “The techniques we've used have been used for a long time. The technology is what has changed. For instance, when DNA testing first began, you needed to have a significant amount of blood to do it. With all of the advances, you now only need a very small amount to get a DNA profile.”

“Working on the show also reinforces what I've been teaching in my classes ... the importance of photography and the importance of the techniques we use to prevent contamination or destruction of evidence.” **C**

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ANDY SEARCY

2001 Graduate of Missouri Southern State University



SOPHOM



AREA HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES GET TASTE OF COLLEGE LIFE



In what has become one of the largest high school recruitment events of any university in the Midwest, Missouri Southern hosted its fourth annual Sophomore Day this spring, welcoming students from schools across the region for a day of educational activities, entertainment, and a chance to explore the MSSU campus.

The event was developed in 2014 by the Offices of Admissions and University Relations & Marketing as a way to give sophomores an opportunity to see campus while juniors at their schools were busy taking the ACT. At the time, the state of Missouri paid for the test. Although it no longer does, many school districts contacted MSSU, hoping to return this year.

This year's event welcomed students from Webb City, Neosho, Monett, Aurora and Galena, Kan.

More than two dozen academic stations were offered across campus for students to learn more about the wide variety of degree programs and opportunities available at the university. Faculty and staff members were available at each of the stops to offer brief presentations.

"This event is important because it gives students the chance to explore what college is like, and to learn more about many of our academic programs," said Cassie Mathes,





SOPHOMORE DAY

director of University Relations & Marketing. “For students who haven’t yet started to think about where they want to go to college, it’s an opportunity for us to showcase what we can offer.”

Although the event – which has welcomed as many as 2,500 students in past years – appears elaborate in its organization and set-up, Mathes says the 80-plus MSSU employees involved in the day have been extremely supportive in making sure it runs smoothly.

Sophomore Day always begins with a high-energy kickoff in Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, featuring music, games and preliminary information about the day. Students then divide into groups for guided tours of academic departments, which are presented by faculty members or MSSU students in each area.

Along the way, they learn more about the university’s academic offerings, history and student life. The day also includes lunch and a closing ceremony with music and prizes, which are awarded based on their social media engagement throughout the day.

Although time constraints won’t allow every sophomore to see every stop (the rotation pattern enables them to see nine different presentations), the hands-on activities have made an impact on enrollment. Last fall, MSSU welcomed a cohort of freshmen who had attended Sophomore Day when they were in high school.



“We know that a lot of kids who come here learn not just about Missouri Southern, but they also learn about careers they could have after completing particular courses of study,” said Derek Skaggs, MSSU’s Dean of Admissions.

“We love Sophomore Day,” said Mathes. “It’s inspiring to see the campus pull together to host such a large event, and it’s a wonderful opportunity to expose young minds to educational and professional paths they might not have otherwise known existed.” **C**



the Nordic semester



By Dr. Chad Stebbins | Director, Institute of International Studies

REGION'S HISTORY AND CULTURE SET FOR FALL 2018 CELEBRATION

For the first time in several years, a themed semester at Missouri Southern will focus on a region of the world rather than on a single country.

This fall's Nordic Semester – the 22nd themed semester since the program began in 1997 – will feature the history and culture of Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland and Iceland.

Eric Hinrichs, president of the Danish Club of St. Louis, will make presentations on Viking culture and history, Scandinavian languages and the relationship of Scandinavian countries in the European Union, NATO, and monetary unions on Monday, Sept. 10.

Southern Theatre will perform “Ghosts,” by the Norwegian playwright Henrik Ibsen, from Oct. 3-6. Dr. Jim Lile, professor of theatre, will give a separate presentation on Ibsen on Sept. 26.

Other faculty members making presentations include Dr. Michael Howarth, associate professor of English, on Danish author Hans Christian Andersen; Dr. Nicholas Nicoletti, associate professor of political science, on “Nordic Capitalism: Lessons from the Social Democratic Model;” and Dr. Rebecca Mouser, assistant professor of English, on “Horned Helmets and Blood Eagles: Dismantling Modern Misconceptions about the Vikings.”

The Southern Jazz Orchestra, under the direction of Freddie Green, will perform the world premiere of an original work composed by David Sharp at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 3, in Corley Auditorium. The composition is based on traditional Scandinavian folk music performed in a jazz style.

The International Film Society will present a dozen films – at least one or two from each of the five countries. The films will range from Ingmar Bergman's 1957 classic “The Seventh Seal” to the 2008 Swedish romantic horror film “Let the Right One In.”

OPEN YOUR *eyes*

Tammy Trent, '90,
talks **overcoming adversity**
for commencement address



No one likes adversity, says Tammy Trent. But how we fight it and work to overcome it is what makes us stronger.

Trent, the senior vice president and chief accounting officer at Leggett & Platt, made that her central message as the keynote speaker for the Spring 2018 Commencement ceremonies.

A Carthage native and 1990 graduate of Missouri Southern, she followed her parents into the accounting field. Today, she oversees accounting for the company, including 120 manufacturing sites in 18 countries.

"Pesos, Euros, dollars, you name it," she says with a laugh.

Trent still lives in Carthage with her husband, Scott, and they have two children – Carson, 20, and Grant, 16.

Trent says she hadn't truly faced adversity until the morning of Aug. 13, 2017, when she learned that Grant had been in a single-car accident. He sustained a spinal cord injury that left him paralyzed

below his mid-chest area. He spent several months at a rehab facility in Colorado.

"I posted daily updates to keep everyone informed with what was going on," she says. "We had so much love and support along the way, and I learned that while this personal crisis started as ours, it opened our eyes to the needs of everyone else. It's not just about you.

"Through this experience, we were able to help others, as well."

Today, she's happy to say Grant is healthy and enjoying his junior year of high school. He was recently inducted into the National Honor Society.

The importance of keeping a positive outlook on life cannot be understated. While it doesn't automatically make everything easier, Trent says it can open your eyes to many incredible things.

"It can awaken you to realize that you have been placed in your unique situation for a reason." **C**



TRENT'S SONS AND HUSBAND, SCOTT

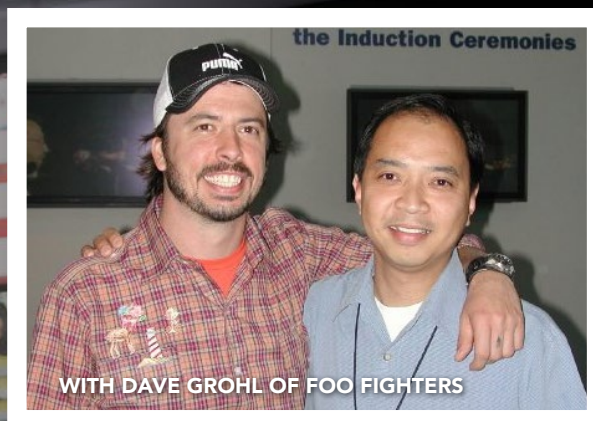
LELVIS

Cleveland



JUN FRANCISCO, '83,
OVERSEES ICONIC
ROCK & ROLL HALL OF FAME
MUSEUM COLLECTION

and Rocks!



He's a 17-year-old kid, on the last leg of a journey that has brought him from the other side of the world – getting his first view of Missouri as the plane descends from the air into Kansas City.

He has a pair of headphones on, listening to Gerry Rafferty's "Baker Street." The song, released in 1978, has a memorable saxophone riff and lyrics that promise the start of something new.

*When you wake up it's a new morning
The sun is shining, it's a new morning
You're going, you're going home*

Music is in Jun Francisco's blood. It's part of who he is. And as it is for many other people, it is tied inexorably to memory ... certain songs, like "Baker Street," are forever tied to a particular moment.

But his ties to music run so much deeper.

"My experience with music is very personal," says Francisco. "When I started working in the museum field, I was always working with someone else's history, because I came from the other side of the globe.

"But when I came here ... suddenly, it's my own history."

Today, the Missouri Southern graduate serves as the collections manager for the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame museum in Cleveland, Ohio – a job that gives him hands-on access to some of the most iconic pieces in music history, as well as facetime with the artists behind them.

Growing up in the Philippines, Francisco says he listened to a lot of music. But the sounds coming through the radio – or episodes of the musical variety series "The Midnight Special" on TV – were as close as he could get to experiencing the joys of live music.

"I was a big rock fan, but to see someone live in concert was almost impossible," says Francisco. "Concerts were very rare, and there wasn't much chance of going to one unless your father was wealthy."

The first album he ever purchased was Eric Clapton's "461 Ocean Boulevard," and he eventually became a fan of the punk movement – especially The Clash.



When his family moved to the United States, they settled in Nevada, Mo., and his attention soon focused on continuing his education in college. Because of its proximity, Missouri Southern was a natural choice.

“I was still fairly new to the country,” Francisco says of his early days of college, where he had decided to study history. “I was learning a lot of social stuff ... how to interact with people, how to be on your own living in the dorm without your parents supervising you. It was so different.”

(One drawback – he couldn’t find anyone who was into The Clash, so he often had to appreciate their music alone.)

He remembers former history professor Delbert Schafer asking how he planned to use his degree.

“I really didn’t have a clue,” says Francisco. “I knew you could teach, but I didn’t really want to do that. But he asked me if I had heard about public history – which is history outside of academia.

“He got me into an introductory course at Missouri Southern and I was able to get an internship in Diamond at the Carver

National Monument and a job as student assistant in Spiva Art Gallery. From then on, I was hooked. I found my calling.”

After graduating from Missouri Southern in 1983, he began working on his master’s in museum studies at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock.

“I did an internship with the Old State House Museum in Little Rock,” he says. “From there, the Arkansas Museum of Science and History gave me my first professional job as collections manager.”

In 1993, he became the curator of exhibits and collections for the Midland County Historical Society in Michigan.

When the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame – which at the time had only been open a few years – sought someone to help them reorganize and computerize their collection in 1999, Francisco applied, but didn’t think he’d get it. With so many other highly qualified applicants interested in the job, he thought applying and interviewing would at the very least give him a chance to check out the exhibits.

“It surprised me when I got the job because there was so much



competition,” he says. “I helped them reorganize and train their staff. After a few years, I decided I wouldn’t find any other job cooler than this.”

* * *

Opened in 1995, the glass pyramid and tower that house the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame museum sits at the shore of Lake Erie in Cleveland.

Nearly half a million people visit each year for an up-close look at some of the most iconic pieces of rock history. The collection is 30,000 pieces strong, ranging from instruments and clothing to handwritten lyrics and concert memorabilia. Exhibits trace the roots of what was called “race music” (which was dubbed “rock and roll” by Cleveland DJ Alan Freed) to the cultural explosions that followed Elvis, The Beatles and others, the “Summer of Love,” the impact of Rolling Stone, the rise of hip hop and on to present day.

Everywhere you turn in this sleek, modern museum, there’s something on display that will stop a fan in their tracks.

There’s the Gibson guitar John Lennon used during his “Bed-In for Peace” with Yoko Ono, sporting caricatures he drew on its body.

Check out the signature glittering glove worn by Michael Jackson, or a custom SuperTrike that belonged to Elvis Presley.

Or the family couch from Jimi Hendrix’s childhood home, along with a collection of his drawings.

The iconic music artifacts run the gamut of artists and styles from



the surf sounds of the Beach Boys to the metal riffs of Metallica.

As collections manager, Francisco and his team ensure that each and every piece given or loaned to the museum is handled with appropriate care.

“My role often is talking to the artist to reassure them that a professional staff will take care of the piece they’re sharing with us,” he says. “We talk about temperature and humidity, our state-of-the-art collections storage area. We’re way beyond just putting on a pair of gloves.”

It also means securing the safe transition of a piece from Point A to Point B. He traveled to New York City to meet with Yoko Ono to collect the pair of glasses John Lennon was wearing when he was shot. More than once he’s had to book a seat next to himself on an airplane for a guitar or other musical artifact he doesn’t want to leave his sight.

“Once here, we process each piece into our collection. All of the nicks, cracks and imperfections are recorded and it is tagged, numbered and put into our collections management system. I can type ‘James Taylor’ into the computer and know how many of his guitars we have and where they are.”

Many of the pieces displayed in the museum have seen better days, but that’s what makes them so special.

“Just look at Springsteen’s guitar, the Esquire,” Francisco says. “It’s been through a lot. Or Willie Nelson’s guitar. It has holes in it from all the strumming.”

He’s traveled the around the globe to meet with artists ranging from Bruce Springsteen and U2 to guitar innovator Les Paul.



“To see someone live in concert when I was a kid was almost impossible,” he says. “Now with my job, I can walk into a house and have coffee with them ... these were my idols. Sometimes when I’m in front of them I think, ‘If my 16-year-old self could see me now.’”

But he’ll always be a young rock and roll fan at heart.

The Clash was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2003, and members of the band were invited to attend a meet-and-greet at the museum.

Staff members, knowing how much the band meant to Francisco, deliberately created a moment where he would be left alone with one of his idols – guitarist and vocalist Mick Jones.



“I prepared myself to say something smart ... something that not everybody would say to him,” he says. “The moment came, and all of a sudden I’m by myself with him and my mind goes blank. I’m staring at him and he’s staring back at me.

“All I could say was, ‘I’m a big fan.’” C



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BEE TRUE BELIEVERS

Hives on prairie land produce research opportunities



Khye Hill is decked out in white coveralls and clutching a metal container, from which white smoke drifts out of the spout.

The junior ecology major is about to get up close and personal with a bee hive. The smoker is used by beekeepers to help calm the members of the colony – who might otherwise be a tad upset that a crowd of people has arrived to inspect their living conditions.

“Never before in my life,” Hill says with a laugh when asked how many times he’s done this.

The addition of three hives to the 40 acres of tall grass prairie land at Missouri Southern is definitely something to buzz about. Dr. Katie Kilmer, assistant professor of biology and environmental health, says the idea came about during a classroom discussion.

“I teach a Principles of Biology class which goes into animal and plant diversity,” she says. “We were talking about the importance of bees as pollinators and how honeybee populations are crashing all over the country and world. People are being encouraged to take up beekeeping on a small scale rather than just as a commercial enterprise.

“One of my students asked if we had beehives on campus and I said I’d look into it and see.”

The answer was no, there weren’t any hives on campus, but she quickly discovered there was support for the idea.

“The Joplin Beekeepers Association’s response was more enthusiastic than I could have imagined,” says Kilmer.

The association donated three hives that MSSU will use for training purposes. When those hives have grown big enough to reproduce into new hives, they plan to donate more.

“Eventually we may have up to eight hives on the prairie,” says Kilmer.



The typical hive can grow big enough to support 40,000 to 50,000 bees, says Phil McGowan, a member of the local association. A really large hive can reach 60,000.

“We’re offering Missouri Southern some instruction on what to look for in a hive,” he says.

On this particular spring afternoon, McGowan says they’ll be looking to confirm that the queen bee has started laying eggs. Hill’s smoker will help to ensure the worker bees stay relatively calm during the process.

“The queen has probably been laying eggs for the last several weeks,” McGowan says. “They’re getting ready for the spring build up.”

Should one wonder if there’s going to be a nice supply of honey created from the hives, the answer is yes.

“We do have a long-term goal of being able to collect and market the honey, with proceeds being used to fund student research at Missouri Southern,” says Kilmer. “But right now, our focus is on getting our hives established and learning how to care for and manage the bees.”

At the moment, the primary emphasis is on the undergraduate research opportunities presented by the hives.

“The main goal for my research project is to gather information to determine the type of pollen the bees in this area are using,” says Hill. “We can help people determine what type of native plant species can be introduced in their area to attract bees.”

Another long-term goal is to establish a beekeeping club on campus.

“We want MSSU to become a more bee-friendly campus,” says Kilmer. “There are certifications available from different organizations. And forming a club on campus could give students – even those outside of the sciences – an outlet to look into in order to explore beekeeping.” C



TRIAL BY JURY

Young Mock Trial team produces several Outstanding Witness winners



**CHRISTALYNN
SANCHEZ**



**JAYCEE
LEE**



**SARAH
SCHULTZ**

The only order in the court is pizza, and to that there are no objections.

The members of Missouri Southern's Mock Trial team have gathered this cold February evening to review and celebrate the conclusion of the 2017-18 competition season.

It came to a close with the team not advancing onward from the 2018 Regional Mock Trial Tournament, held at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. But the smiles on the faces of these students are evidence that there's much to be proud of.

Exhibit A: The fact that, for the majority of the team members, it marked their first year participating in the program.

"It was the classic rebuilding year, as they say," says Dr. Nicholas Nicoletti, who completed his first year as head coach after four as an assistant coach. "These students learned really fast and they did fantastic."

Exhibit B: This new team took home an award at every tournament in which they competed.

Chrystalynn Sanchez, a sophomore from Carthage working on a double major in Spanish and political science, took home an Outstanding Witness Award during the regional tournament in Kansas City.

Sarah Schultz, a sophomore business management major, received an Outstanding Witness Award during the Mid-Missouri Mock Trial Tournament held in January at the University of Missouri.

Jaycee Lee, a senior criminal justice administration major, was also recognized as an Outstanding Witness during the Sooner Invitational at the University of Oklahoma in November 2017.

The case students prepared for during the 2017-18 season involved attempted murder with a drug angle to it. Witnesses included the victim's daughter, a pharmacologist, an Uber driver



and others. Members of the Mock Trial team must be ready to serve as both the prosecution and defense during tournaments.

"Our philosophy is that every student on this team should be able to play any given role at any time," says Nicoletti. "They have to learn all the ins and outs of the case – the defense strategy, the prosecution strategy, what we'll be asking certain witnesses, cross-examination questions, and how to build opening and closing statements from scratch."

Marina Rojas, a junior criminal justice major from Kansas City, was one of just two returning team members this year.

"I started with mock trial in high school," she says. "The team at Missouri Southern was one of the factors that helped me decide to come here. This was my second year on the team, and I became team captain. I already knew the rules of evidence, so I was able to help with that at the council table."

The pizza boxes empty, it's now time for the defense – and the prosecution – to earn some well-earned rest. But don't think they're not already setting their sights on the 2018-19 season.

"This year was a phenomenal experience," says junior Darius Myles, a junior political science major also in his first year with the team. "We're young, but we have a lot of promise. I feel like we can go really far next year; past regionals ... maybe even to nationals."

"This team is special." C



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Following a grant received in 2015, Missouri Southern became the home of the American Mock Trial Association.

"We take in all the money and registrations for competitions," says Tammy Doss, coordinator for the association. "We mail out all the supplies – such as graduation cords, name badges and DVDs – from our office here on campus."

For the 2017-18 school year, the number of participating colleges and universities increased to approximately 450, she said. Those schools fielded 714 teams for competition.



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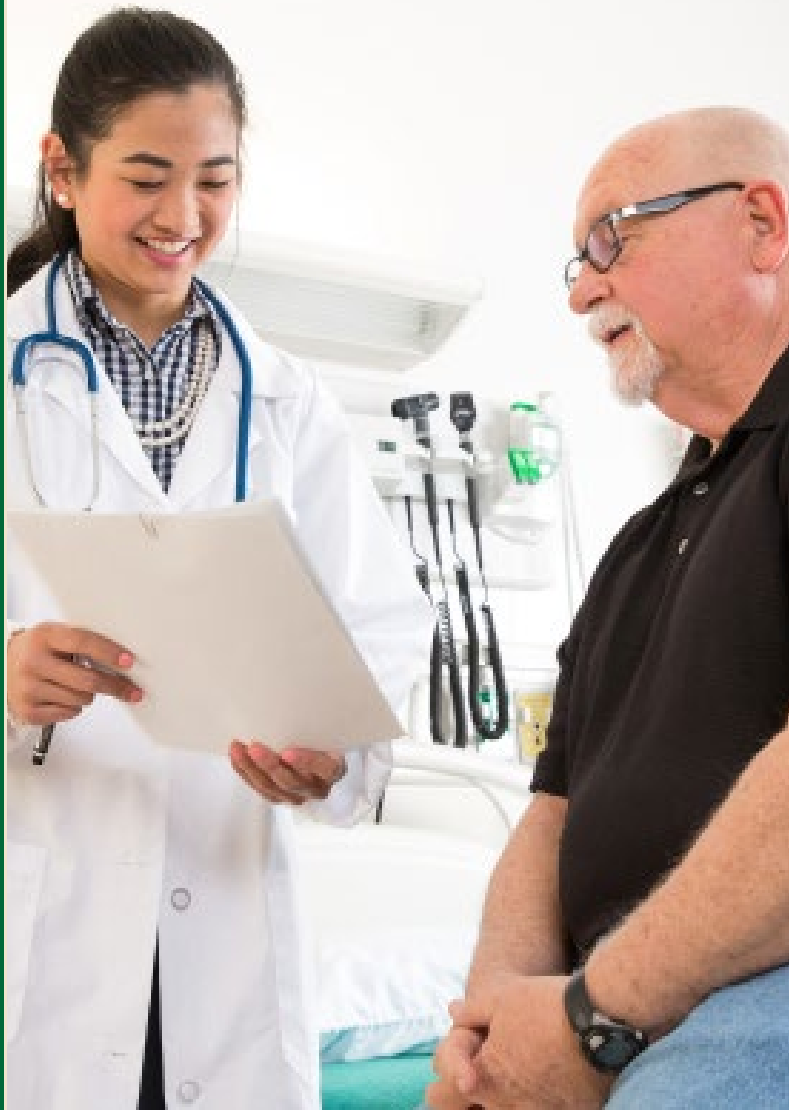
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STUDENTS LEARN BEDSIDE MANNER IN NEW COMMUNICATIONS CLASS

Students in the Yours to Lose – Advanced Medical School Acceptance Program are learning communication skills that will improve their bedside manner.

An oral communications class was launched this spring, tailor-made for the future medical students.

“The overall goal of the class is for the students to not only develop their public speaking and overall communication skills, but also for them to learn and use their health communication skills,” says Natalie Grecu, assistant professor of communications. “The rapport between a physician and their patient is a skill they need to know.”

Grecu is the first to teach the new class at Missouri Southern. She says it emphasizes patient-physician interactions, non-verbal communication and how technology can come into play.

With a background in strategic communication, she says she stresses how things like eye contact, using your hands and disposition can have a profound effect in one-on-one interactions. They’re skills that will be especially important to have as the students become physicians.

“We also cover communicating bad news or end-of-life issues with patients,” Grecu says. “It’s tough, but so important.”

DISSECTION CLASS TAKES UNIQUE APPROACH

A new upper-division biology course is allowing students to get an advanced exploration of the human body.

The Advanced Human Dissection class is notable for taking a histological approach.

“Under this approach, the cadaver is treated as a patient,” says Dr. Alla Barry, associate professor of biology. “We X-ray before cutting the first incision. Students are assigned not only to dissect, but also to diagnose the patient’s cause of death, and make observations about lifestyles and other factors that could have contributed to death.

“This means we are doing a complete histological analysis. Not very many undergraduate schools in the United States use this approach.”

The class is designed for pre-med and pre-professional students who plan to attend medical school. The process students follow means they are able to correctly diagnose the disease their patient had.

“It is interesting and gives them a better understanding of anatomical variations and pathology,” says Barry. “It puts our anatomy program on an absolutely different level.”





LITERATURE COMES ALIVE DURING 'FRANKENSTEIN WEEK'

A 200-year-old classic came to life on campus this spring during Frankenstein Week, thanks to the efforts of the English & Philosophy Department.

The department presented a week of activities that focused on Mary Shelley's "Frankenstein," published in 1818. The keynote speaker for the celebration was Dr. Elisa Beshero-Bondar of the University of Pittsburgh-Greensburg. She presented "Stitching the Seams of Textual Bodies: A Bicentennial Digital Frankenstein Project." There were also presentations on theology in relation to the novel, a panel discussion on science and ethics and a screening of the 1931 film version of "Frankenstein" along with Mel Brooks' 1979 comedy "Young Frankenstein."

"Frankenstein Week gave us a chance to connect across different departments and to the community," said Dr. Zac Watson, department chairman. "The panel of experts gave us a chance to think about the role literature plays in topics we're still concerned about now."

A scary story contest was also held as part of the celebration. Michelle Borr, a sophomore English major, won the student division and the contest's grand prize for her story, "Fruit of Thy Womb."



STUDENTS ATTEND NATIONAL CERAMICS CONFERENCE

Two Missouri Southern students attended the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts Conference held in March in Pittsburgh, Penn.

Sarah Clark and Mackenzie Paden, both senior studio art majors, were recently awarded student research grants. They used the funding to present their artwork at the conference. Frank Pishkur, chairman of the Art Department, also attended the conference.

The theme of the conference, "CrossCurrents: Clay and Culture," was chosen to reflect Pittsburgh as a city of rivers, bridges, complex immigrant history and reinvention.

Clark served as a volunteer for the 52nd annual conference and presented her portfolio to ceramics professionals in the Student Critique Room to get feedback on her Honors thesis, "The Art of Being Centered: Exploring Zen Buddhism in Ceramics."

Paden presented one of her stoneware cups at the 26th Anniversary Regina Brown Undergraduate Fellowship Cup Show and Sale for consideration for a Cups of Merit Commission award.



BROADCAST STUDIO GETS MAJOR UPGRADE

Broadcast students working in the KGCS studio are now utilizing a state-of-the-art video system to broadcast Missouri Southern athletic events.

TriCaster TC1 uses a fiber feed/ network data interface over KGCS' local area network. It can broadcast live while simultaneously uploading content to YouTube, record for later broadcast, and stream audio for three radio stations. The system also includes instant replay and slow motion capability called 3Play.

Currently used to broadcast athletic events from Fred G. Hughes Stadium and the Leggett & Platt Athletic Center, the new setup will eventually replace the old system in the studio for all KGCS activities, including student learning.

Once fully transitioned, the equipment will be used to broadcast commencement ceremonies and other events held on campus.

"Using this equipment makes all of our communication students more employable and looks great on their resume," said Bill Hunt, creative services manager for the campus TV station.

Judy Stiles, station manager, praised the efforts of staff in Athletics, IT and the Department of Communication for working as a team to acquire and install the new equipment. "It was a campus-wide effort," she said.



SABBATICAL TO TAKE NII ABRAHAMS BACK INTO THE FIELD

Dr. Nii Abrahams, an economics and finance professor, has been approved for an upcoming sabbatical in which he will study the environmental effects of different forms of irrigation systems.

While it may seem a world removed from his classroom duties, it will actually mark a return to one of his earliest passions.

“My bachelor’s degree was in agricultural science,” says Abrahams. “Before I got into grad school, I happened to pick up a book on environmental economics and became fascinated. I’ve always felt strongly about environmental protection and being a good steward of the environment.”

An early thesis paper Abrahams tackled looked at how farmers used the pesticide Alar for apple production (it was pulled when it was revealed to contain high carcinogen levels). His paper also looked at cost-effective, sustainable agricultural methods for farmers.

His sabbatical – planned for next spring – will find him conducting research into irrigation systems used by farmers in the Fayetteville, Ark., area.

“I want to look at the environmental effect of the irrigation systems, but also look at the value of the information each farmer has,” said Abrahams. “How does the information they have influence the kind of methods they adopt?”



FACULTY, STUDENTS ATTEND WOMEN IN ECONOMICS SYMPOSIUM

A group of students from the Economics & Finance Club were able to learn more about how women are succeeding in the field of economics during a recent trip.

Dr. Jonathan Adongo led the excursion to the first Women in Economics Symposium, held in February at the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis.

“There’s a general interest in trying to increase gender diversity in graduate school economics programs and in the discipline in general,” says Adongo. “It featured speakers in various fields to show them that this path is possible.”

Speakers included Mary Daly, executive vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco; Claudia Sahm, a member of the Federal Reserve System’s board of governors; and Ellen Zentner, managing director and chief U.S. economist for Morgan Stanley.

“It was a very intimate and very empowering seminar for young women who are going to be in the economic work force,” says Mung Zi Shin, a sophomore finance major who attended the symposium. “The speakers were all very successful in their careers and shared their stories. It was very inspiring.

Shin says she hopes to attend graduate school and then return to her home in Myanmar to help with the country’s economic growth.

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS: ARTICLE EXAMINES FACTORS THAT KEEP STUDENTS FROM STUDYING OVERSEAS

It began with a question raised in an article: What are the barriers facing students who may be interested in studying abroad?

But the article was missing a critical voice, says Dr. Chris Moos, professor of business administration: the voice of students.

“It talked to faculty members and study abroad directors about what those barriers are,” he says. “It’s like asking a store why customers aren’t buying their product instead of asking the customers themselves.”

Moos teamed with Dr. Alex Vernon, professor of business administration, and former student Holly Loncarich to tell the other side of the story by going right to the source. In November of 2017, they published “Student Expectancy and Barriers to Study Abroad” in the Academy of Educational Leadership Journal, Vol. 21, No. 1.

“If you look at study abroad programs and how many students do it, it’s about 1 percent ... which is shockingly low,” says Moos. “But at Missouri Southern, we’re at about 4 percent of students, and 13 percent of graduating students.”

Students from across campus were surveyed for the project. Safety, cost, family concerns and the possibility of lost wages were among the topics covered by the survey.

MSSU STUDENTS
IN SEGOVIA, SPAIN



“What came up was that students are really concerned about the financial impact,” he says. “It can be affected based on where the economy is at the time they’re looking. If students have a wait-staff position or other part-time job, and know they’re going to be gone for a few weeks, knowing that jobs will be available when they return is helpful. If the unemployment is higher, they’re more worried about it.”

Moos says a concern for personal safety can also be a barrier.

The university’s international mission, the variety of options and the availability of funding are among the factors in MSSU’s higher-than-average number of participants in the program.

“It affirmed that, as an institution, we’re doing good things.”



STUDENTS TO HELP SHAPE DIRECTION FOR THE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

A newly formed student advisory council will help shape the direction for the Robert W. Plaster School of Business.

Dr. Jeff Zimmerman, dean of the school, formed the council this semester after administrators discussed how beneficial the input from students would be when it comes to growing and marketing programs.

“We were looking at engineering technology because we’d like to increase enrollment,” says Dr. Jeffrey Zimmerman, dean of the school. “Then we realized we’re a bunch of 50-year-old people trying to figure out what 18-year-old students are thinking.”

Zimmerman said the council will allow undergraduate students to participate in the process of developing a strategic plan for the school, and will give them opportunities to offer advice on curriculum.

“We have 12 students who applied and were picked for the initial group, but we’ll eventually take up to 25,” he says. “My plan is to have a member of the school’s business advisory board sit on the council, and a student to sit on the business advisory board, as well.”



"THERE IS ALWAYS HOPE" PSYCHOLOGY ALUM LEADS CLASS ON MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Teenage suicide eventually touches nearly every community. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide is considered the second leading cause of death among college students and the fourth leading cause for adults between the ages of 18 and 65.

In April, the Psychology Department sponsored training in Youth Mental Health First Aid. The eight-hour course was aimed at students as well as family members, teachers, human services workers and other caring citizens. The goal was to learn how to help adolescents and young people experiencing a mental health or addiction crisis.

The course was presented by Aubrey Doss, a project coordinator of the System of Care Community Early Signs and Symptoms (SOCCESS) at Will's Place, part of the Ozark Center in Joplin.

Loreen Huffman, professor of psychology, said the course sprang out of an on-campus visit by Doss, an MSSU psychology alum.

"Aubrey visited as a guest speaker and mentioned she conducted this class," Huffman said. "We thought it would be something not just for our students but also for our campus community."

According to Doss, self-harm in young people can be predicated by conditions that exist separately or concurrently.

"This training actually deals very much with crisis intervention," she said. "It deals with warning signs, risk factors and protection methods. The more we learn about it, the more people will be aware of what is going on."

Early intervention is critical, she said.

"There is always hope," said Doss. "A lot of things are changing and there is a lot of new research. There is more talk of hope, change and recovery. It's an exciting part of the mental health field right now."



TEACHER-ED MAJOR RECEIVES STATE COACHING AWARD

Austin Gripka, junior middle-school math education major from Carl Junction, was recently named the Missouri High School Assistant Volleyball Coach of the Year for Class 1 schools.

Gripka served as assistant volleyball coach at McAuley Catholic High School in Joplin last fall. It was his first season as a high school coach.

His nomination was selected as the winner from all the assistant coaches nominated by the Missouri Volleyball Coaches Association Board.

"I was very shocked when I received the phone call, because I didn't even know the head coach at McAuley had nominated me," Gripka said. "I wasn't really expecting to get any awards in my first year of coaching."

Gripka accepted the award at the Missouri High School Volleyball Coaches Association awards banquet in Columbia in February.

This spring, he completed his junior internship in the teacher education program.



RESEARCH PROJECT LEADS TO HEALTHIER CONCESSIONS MENU

Grilled chicken wraps, fruit, and veggies with hummus might not be your traditional game grub. But thanks to grant funding and student research efforts, those healthy options are now available at the concession stand on game days at MSSU.

Andrea Cullers, an assistant kinesiology professor, says the idea came from her work as a member of the Joplin Area Food Action Network.

“We received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to implement the Eat Smart in Parks program, which was put together by the University of Missouri Extension,” says Cullers. “The program is about how you can get healthier food at concession stands in state and city parks.”

She approached the Athletics Department to inquire if Southern’s concession stands would be open to participating. After getting the go-ahead, a group of students in her research methods class, members of the Kinesiology Club and others decided to survey fans at a football game and the downtown Third Thursday event last fall.

Seth Sockwell, a junior health promotion and wellness major, was among the students taking part in the effort.

“We talked to people sitting in the stands and also waited by the concession area to have people take a quick survey,” he says. “Overall, we had a really good response ... especially from parents and older students. They definitely wanted to see healthier options than burgers or hot dogs.”

With the survey data in hand, Cullers says grant funding was used to purchase several digital menus that are being used at games to advertise the concessions menu – including new, low-calorie and healthy snack options. The new items became available during basketball games this spring.

“People are asking about them and ordering them,” she says. “We’re seeing a positive response.”





NURSING PROGRAM LAUNCHES NEW SPRING COHORT

In a much-anticipated move, Missouri Southern's nursing program officially expanded this spring with the addition of a new cohort.

State approval for the expansion was granted last November. A total of 33 additional students were admitted in the spring, according to Dr. Marcia Fletchall-Wilmes, head of the nursing department.

Most of the students admitted to the program were already enrolled at MSSU or returned to the university after working in nursing positions in the community. Upon graduation, the students will receive BSN degrees.

Wilmes says many of the graduates go on to work in the local healthcare system.

"Both the Freeman and Mercy healthcare systems were very supportive of the program expansion," Wilmes says.

The nursing program at MSSU has developed an exceptional reputation for its service to students and the community over the years. In 2017, it yielded a 100 percent employment rate for graduates.

This spring, a total of seven students will receive graduate degrees in nursing as a result of a collaborative program with Southeast Missouri State University.



PROGRAMS TEAM UP FOR MASS CASUALTY SIMULATION

Students from the EMS, nursing, respiratory therapy and radiology programs teamed with local emergency room physicians for a recent mass casualty simulation at Missouri Southern.

Held in April, the interprofessional simulation was based on a mock industrial plant explosion.

Caleb Lewis, director of Simulation and IPE (Interprofessional Education) at Southern, says any mass casualty has the potential to rapidly overwhelm medical responders.

"Our goal is to have students from different disciplines work together in a team environment," Lewis says. "They need to learn how to appropriately triage trauma patients and understand the different roles and responsibilities of each healthcare provider."

Besides offering an important training exercise, the event also focused on effective communication among team members as well as conflict resolution.



DENTAL DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHES ALUMNI WALL



A new Dental Hygiene Alumni Wall is honoring graduates of the program — as well as a longtime faculty member.

The wall was dedicated on April 26 outside the Dental Hygiene Clinic, located in the Julio León Health Sciences building. Funding for the project was provided by Deanna and Ken Caviness as part of a gift from

the Caviness Foundation in support of the MSSU Dental Hygiene program.

The wall includes alumni graduate class pictures from as far back as the 1970s and '80s all the way to recent years.

A special plaque was also dedicated recognizing faculty member Rhonda White for her 30 years of outstanding service as a dental hygiene instructor at MSSU.

The Dental Hygiene Department has plans to broaden its curriculum and expand into a four-year baccalaureate degree program in the near future. The expansion is in the process of being approved by the Missouri Department of Higher Education.

The program, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary at Missouri Southern, continues to offer excellent care to the community.

In addition to serving patients at the campus clinic, students and faculty from the department provided dental screenings and fluoride varnish to over 200 children last fall at Jasper Elementary School in Jasper, Mo.



RADIOLOGY STUDENTS TAKE FIRST IN STATE COMPETITION



A student team from Missouri Southern won first place in a radiology knowledge-based competition during the 86th annual Missouri Society for Radiologic Technologists Conference held in April in Columbia, Mo.

Schools taking part, in addition to Missouri Southern, included the University of Missouri – Columbia, St. Louis Community College, Southwest Baptist/Mercy Hospital and Cox College of Springfield and Avilla University, Research Medical Center, Metropolitan Community College, and St. Luke's, all of Kansas City.

“We started off missing several questions and got behind in round one, only to rally back to get into the final round which consisted of a 30-minute competition,” said Alan Schiska, chairman of the Department of Radiology. “We took a lead early in the round and never looked back, finishing several points ahead of the closest team.”

Team members from Southern included: Kayla Jenison, Joplin; Regan Smith, Jasper; Courtney Cook, Seneca; and Shelby Teegarden, Carthage.

LIONS ATHLETICS



'SOMETHING I'LL REMEMBER MY WHOLE CAREER' HEAD COACH JEFF BOSCHÉE REFLECTS ON WINNING BASKETBALL SEASON

It was a season Missouri Southern head basketball coach Jeff Boschée says he can tell all his future teams about during moments they're struggling.

"This team bought into our program and they bought into what we were teaching them on and off the court," he said.

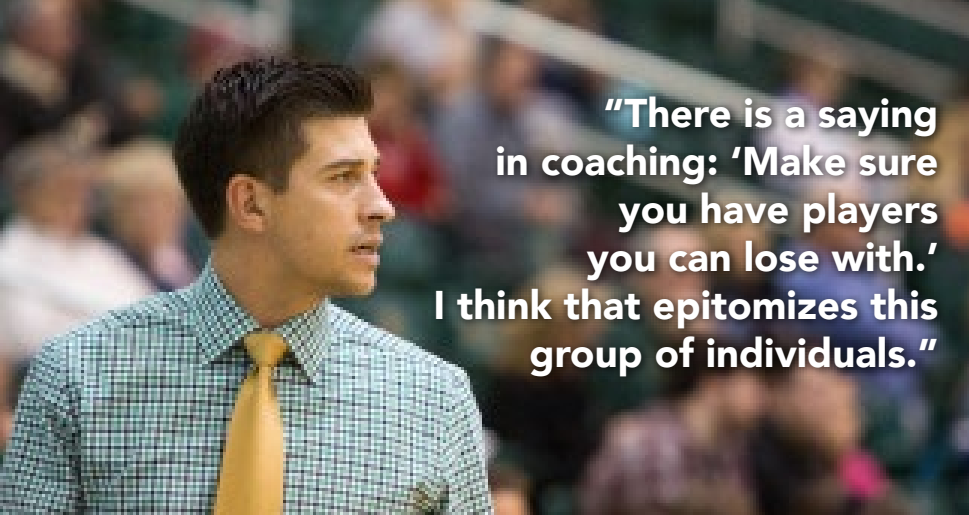
Boschée just completed his fourth season as the head coach, leading the Lions to their second 20-win season in his tenure and another trip to the MIAA and NCAA tournaments.

The Lions were picked to finish sixth in the MIAA preseason coaches poll. But the team finished second, including two wins over national powerhouse Northwest Missouri – one of them stopping a 49-game home winning streak for the Bearcats – which helped him earn the 2018 MIAA Men's Basketball Coach of the Year award.

Throughout all the success of this year's squad, Boschée has continually stated how much fun it was to coach this group of young men.

"I think the biggest thing was they are all good kids," he said. "There is a saying in coaching: 'Make sure you have players you can lose with.' I think that epitomizes this group of individuals. Even when we were 2-5 and 0-2 in the conference, I never felt a negative vibe. The way we responded to adversity all year long was something I'll remember my whole career."

This season, CJ Carr was a first-team All-MIAA and All-Region selection, while Elyjah Clark earned second-team All-MIAA honors and Kinzer Lambert was an honorable mention pick.



"There is a saying in coaching: 'Make sure you have players you can lose with.' I think that epitomizes this group of individuals."

The Lions, as a team, broke the single-season record for threes for the second-straight year with 283 three-pointers as well as the single-season record for three-point attempts with 715. The Lions also broke the single-season record for threes per game with 9.4. Clark, for the second-straight year, broke the single-season three-point record with 110 three pointers, just eight off the MIAA record for single-season threes.

For the last two seasons, the Lions have been one of the best three-point shooting teams in all of Division II.

"The way the game is being played now creates more opportunities for our guys to shoot threes," Boschee said. "In my opinion, it is better to shoot a three-point shot than a contested two. If one were to sit down and look at all the analytics of the game, it tells you to shoot more threes."

Throughout the season, Carr and Clark were two of the top players in the league and one of the best tandems in the game, even earning a nickname — the Killer C's.

"It was a ton of fun to watch them," Boschee said. "They are very hard to guard. They both created shots for each other. They are both so good, and both can take over a game at any point."

Boschee relies often on the knowledge and experience of both his assistant coaches, Sam and Paul McMahon.

"They are very hard workers," he said. "They do a great job in scouting opponents, along with the everyday individual work with our guys. They have such a positive influence with our players, which in turn keeps the players positive."

"When I'm down and frustrated, they do a great job of picking me up and keeping me going. That's what great assistants do. They will do whatever it takes to make this program great. Any successful head coach has great assistants."

Boschee is 76-45 in four years with the Lions. A member of a Final Four team with the University of Kansas, he holds the school record for career three-pointers made with 338 and was the Big 12 Freshman of the Year in 2000.



CJ CARR: A WILL TO WIN

For senior CJ Carr, the honors sailed through the net during his final season with the Lions basketball team.



Carr was a first-team All-MIAA and first-team All-Region selection by the Conference Commissioner's Association, as well as a member of the MIAA All-Defensive Team this year. He was also named a first-team All-District selection by the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

"I came into this season wanting to win and work as hard as I could," he said.

"The individual accolades are nice, but the team making it to the NCAA tournament was great.

"In our pre-season rankings, we were sixth but we finished second – almost tying for first. It's really big for the guys coming up next year. They'll have a good chance of winning the conference."

A two-time All-MIAA player, Carr finished his career with 1,111 points and moved up the all-time scoring ladder in MSSU history into 14th place. His point total is the third-most points scored in MSSU history by a two-year player.

A psychology major, he transferred to Missouri Southern two years ago from Southern Illinois Edwardsville. He had nothing but praise when asked what it has been like to play for Coach Jeff Boschee.

"Coach Boschee is a great guy and a great leader," said Carr. "He always has a positive attitude and is easy to talk to on and off the court."

Set to graduate in December, he said he's already got an eye on the future.

"Right now I'm looking for an agent," said Carr. "I want to try and play professionally."

PATTY VAVRA, WOMEN'S TRACK/ CROSS COUNTRY COACH JOINS HALL OF FAME

Two university sports programs and their longtime coach recently joined the Missouri Sports Hall of Fame.

The Missouri Southern Women's Track & Field and Cross Country programs and coach Patty Vavra were honored during the Sports Hall of Fame's annual Women's Sports Luncheon in Springfield this spring.

Vavra, now an associate professor of kinesiology, came to Missouri Southern in 1994 as the head coach for women's track and field/cross country and as an instructor for the Kinesiology Department. She had an illustrious career, spending 22 years as coach of the teams until her phased retirement in 2016.

She led Southern to seven MIAA Cross Country Championships as well as numerous indoor and outdoor titles. She also coached the Lions to an MIAA Triple Crown in 2007-08, winning championships in cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field.

She has earned 12 MIAA Coach of the Year awards, seven in cross country (including four in a row), two in indoor track and field, and three for outdoor track and field. Vavra earned the prestigious USTFCCA Jimmy Carnes Distinguished Service Award in 2014.

"It's quite an honor to be recognized and inducted to the Sports Hall of Fame," Vavra said. "It is equally gratifying to see the Missouri Southern Women's Cross Country and Track and Field programs



receiving such an award. It is an accomplishment that has been earned by the efforts of numerous athletes and coaches over the decades and is an amazing recognition for MSSU."

The women's Track and Field program has enjoyed numerous successes throughout its history. The indoor team won the MIAA (Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association) in 2004 and 2008, while the outdoor team won the MIAA in 2008, 2009 and 2010. Since 1994, the program has produced four national champions and more than 100 All-Americans.

The women's cross country program has long produced memorable moments and athletes. Since 1994, it has produced 10 All-Americans and 35 All-Regional performers as well as four MIAA champions. The program's 2007, 2008 and 2009 teams won an NCAA Division II Regional, with the 2009 team placing third at the NCAA D-II Championships. Additionally, the Lions have won the MIAA Title seven times (1998, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012 and 2014).

CROSS COUNTRY TEAMS EARN ACADEMIC RECOGNITION

The Missouri Southern men's and women's cross country teams have earned academic praise from the United States Cross Country and Track and Field Coaches Association, the organization announced recently.

Teams must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 and must have scored at an NCAA Division II regional meet to qualify for All-Academic team awards. Overall, there were 176 teams – 157 women's teams and 119 men's teams – that picked up All-Academic honors.

The Lions' women carry a cumulative 3.73 GPA, which tied for the sixth-highest GPA in Division II this year and was second-highest in the MIAA. The Southern men finished with a 3.03 GPA on the season.

The individual All-Academic honor was awarded to those athletes who have compiled a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.25 and finished among the top 30 percent of eligible runners at his or her regional championships and/or the top half of the field at the NCAA Championships.

Individually, the women had four earn honors, including Ashlee Kuykendall, Christian Provence, Sarah Usher and Sierra Wells.



SOUTHERNFEST 2018

Fans of the Missouri Southern Lions gathered to support the university's athletics program during Southernfest 2018, held on April 20.

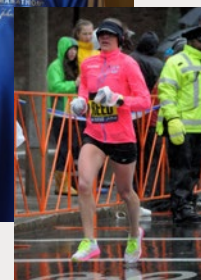
The annual event featured the Rod Smith Golf Tournament at Twin Hills Country Club, followed by the Lion Pride Dinner and Auction at the North End Zone Facility.

Golf enthusiasts had a chance to play with Smith, a '93 graduate and NFL great, during the tournament. The dinner and auction featured a number of items that had attendees placing their bids. A trip to Mexico, tickets to next year's Daytona 500, and signed photos featuring Olympian Michael Phelps, basketball greats Michael Jordan and LeBron James were among the big auction draws during this year's event.

"The money raised during the event goes toward athletic projects," said Randon Coffey, director of athletic marketing. "It's our biggest fundraiser of the year."



MOSO ALUM FINISHES EIGHTH IN BOSTON MARATHON



To say that the weather conditions during the 2018 Boston Marathon were unfavorable would be a bit of an understatement.

Temperatures hovered at just above freezing, while rain and wind gusts nearing 20 mph pummeled the more than 27,000 runners who turned out for the event. Among those runners was Kimi Reed – a former All-American distance runner at Missouri Southern – who went into the 122nd annual race hoping for a Top 15 finish.

Reed (formerly Shank), who graduated from Missouri Southern in 2010 with a degree in health promotion and wellness, turned in an even stronger finish than she had hoped for. She crossed the finish line at 2:46:47 – eighth place among all the female runners.

How were you able to push through the terrible weather?

It was as miserable as it looked on TV. The conditions clearly affected everyone and I just happened to outlast it better than some. I think the cold/rain helped me finish higher as several of the Ethiopian and Kenyan ladies did not finish. I started thinking back to all the "good luck" wishes I had received the days before the big race, and that helped me get to the finish line.

Also, the paraplegic runners had started before me and every time I thought about dropping I'd pass one of them and we'd exchange a thumbs-up or "great job." I kept thinking to myself, "No matter how miserable I feel right now, it can't be anywhere near as bad as what they have fought through."

What did you learn from your time running for Missouri Southern?

I learned that you never know who will show up on race day. This race reminded me of my junior year at MOSO, when I was runner-up at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships in the 10k. I barely snuck into the race and ended up second place! I was always just so consistent/dependable in my racing and training.

Do you plan to run the Boston Marathon again?

I have been told by locals that I didn't get the "full Boston experience" because the weather kept several people from being out there. My husband, Marshall, and I are already looking forward to possibly making the trip again next year.

My next goal is to run an Olympic "A" standard of sub 2:37, which I will attempt this December at the California International Marathon in Sacramento.

picture this

Travel and lifestyle photos submitted
by our **Lion students and alumni**

To submit a photo for consideration, please email crossroads@mssu.edu.



"Lavender Fields Forever"

Snowhill, England

I spent the summer after my graduation living in England with a close friend. We lived in a beautiful area to the west of London called the Cotswolds, which was full of stone cottages, flower gardens and fairytale forests. In our last week, we found the Cotswold Lavender Farm in a small village called Snowhill. We spent the morning breathing in the delicious scent and taking photos.

I like to obscure the faces of people I photograph. I don't want the focus to be on how pretty a person is, but on the detail in the image. Instead of noticing my friend's looks, a viewer might notice how the wind is making her shirt dance or all of the shades of purple in the field. This may also allow the viewer be able to picture themselves there because they aren't focused on who is in the photo.

Olivia Hoskins, '17

Social Media Content Creator, Cafe Connections

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1970s

John Cochran, '78, was named a 2018 Spirit of Service awardee by the MSSU Alumni Association.

Sharon Frost, '78, was awarded the 2018 Gold Key Award by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

Mark Elliff, '79, was named the 2018 Richard M. Webster Carthage Citizen of the Year by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

1980s

Lorraine Whittington, '82, was named a 2018 Spirit of Service awardee by the MSSU Alumni Association.

Bill Gipson, '85, was reappointed to the Missouri Southern Board of Governors by Gov. Eric Greitens.

Jon Turner, '88, is an assistant professor of counseling, leadership and special education at Missouri State University in Springfield, Mo.

1990s

Michelle (Mitchell) Fichtner, '91, is a physical therapist for the University of Kansas Health System in Kansas City, Kan.

Jason Gage, '91, is the city manager for the city of Salina, Kan.

Daniel Bell, '95, is assistant professor and director of the law library at the University of Tulsa's College of Law.

Chris Gold, '96, is the superintendent at Marionville R-9 in Marionville, Mo.

J. Clinton Howell, '99, is a corporal with the Missouri State Highway Patrol and a licensed realtor.

Matt Olson, '99, is an account director at DEG in Overland Park, Kan.

2000s

Brenda Durbin, '00, earned her master's degree in educational technology with a library media licensure. She is now the library media specialist at East Middle School in Joplin.

Blake Bard, '02, was named the Webb City Area Chamber of Commerce's 2017 Chamber Man of the Year.

Stephanie Garber, '02, along with husband, Dale, received the Carthage Chamber of Commerce's Spotlight Award.

Kim Pace, '04, was awarded the 2018 Gold Key Award by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

Amber Ponder, '05, graduated from William Woods University with a master's degree in education administration.

Jordan Hamilton, '06, '11, is a telecommunications engineer for NV Energy in Las Vegas, Nev.

David Armstrong, '07, graduated from William Woods University with a master's degree in education administration.

Sara (Ayres) Kennard, '08, was awarded American History Teacher of the Year by Northwest Arkansas chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Paul Whetstone, '08, appears in the movie "Off the Menu," which was released on Valentine's Day.

Shannan (Borgard) Hombs, '09, is an occupational therapist at Barnes Jewish Hospital in St. Louis.

Patricia Woods, '09, '10, graduated from the University of Missouri with her master's in educational psychology.

Shelby Frakes, '10, graduated from William Woods University with a master's degree in Education Administration.

2010s

Brian Borgard, '12, is a territory sales manager for TAMKO Building Products Inc. in Joplin.

Cody Dyer, '12, released his first book, "Dirty Life and Times."

Amanda Garrison, '12, is attending Prescott College in Prescott, Ariz., for the master's of science in clinical mental health counseling program. Her concentration is in art therapy. She recently had the opportunity to show her artwork at the First Friday ArtWalk in downtown Flagstaff.

Kelsey Stenger, '12, was awarded the 2018 Gold Key Award by the Carthage Chamber of Commerce.

Stephanie (Sonntag) Borgard, '13, is an early childhood special education teacher at Bess Truman Primary Center in Webb City.

Crystal Weltha, '13, graduated from William Woods University with a master's degree in education administration.

Chrissy Landburg, '15, graduated from William Woods University with a master's degree in education administration.

Nicole Thorn, '15, graduated from William Woods University with a master's degree in education administration.

Darren Fichtner, '16, is a career exploration and STEM teacher at Turner Middle School in Kansas City, Kan.

MARRIAGES

Adam Landburg and Chrissy Elledge, '15,
were married on Oct. 15, 2017.

Jordan Baker, '15, and Ruth Loy
were married on Nov. 18, 2017.

Mark Swingle and Ashley Mehrer, '07,
were married on March 2, 2018.

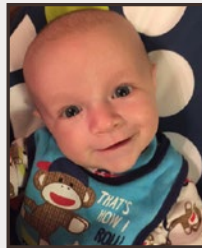
LION CUBS



June Elnora
Whitford



Lydia Grace
Baker



Tucker Adam
Davis



Janna Rae
Tallman



Olive Emerson
Pace

Spencer and Jentri (White) Whitford, '10,
welcomed June Elnora on Sept. 27, 2017.

Evan, '13, and Whitney (Triplett) Baker, '14,
welcomed Lydia Grace on Oct. 16, 2017.

Trever, '12, and Jessie (Musser) Davis, '12,
welcomed Tucker Adam on Nov. 24, 2017.

Jamie, '04, and Jessica (Selby) Tallman, '09,
welcomed Janna Rae on Jan. 3, 2018.

Jarrold, '12, and Mary (Duncan) Pace, '14, '17,
welcomed Olive Emerson on Feb. 3, 2018.



RETIREES

Cynthia Jordan
Administrative Assistant
Inst. Of International Studies

Sharon Odem
Administrative Assistant
Office of the President

Donald Ross
Senior Broadcast Engineer
IT

Thomas Hewett
Broadcast Engineer
IT

L. Hartford Tunnel
Associate Professor
CIS

Kelly Wilson
Director of ACTS
ACTS

Tina Fitzpatrick
Coordinator of Admissions Computing
Admissions

Ruth Smith
Counselor
Financial Aid

John Shafer
Custodian
Physical Plant

Derek Skaggs
Dean
Admissions

Jeffrey Macomber
Professor of Music
Music

Linda Sue Richardson
Administrative Assistant - Rolla
Distance Dental Hygiene

Vickie Roettger
Professor of Biology & Environmental Health
Biology & Environmental Health

Gail Taubel
Assistant Professor
Distance Dental Hygiene

IN MEMORIAM



ALUMNI

Don Atteberry 2/21/2018	Dr. Rex Gallemore, '86 1/27/2018
Johnny Atteberry, '61 4/16/2018	Betty Garrison 11/10/2017
John Baldwin, '76 4/27/2018	Todd Graves, '89 9/26/2017
Michael Blood, '92 4/13/2018	Gaye Gray, '91 3/6/2018
David Boman, '74 3/28/2018	Ginger Grey 8/31/2017
George Boyd, Jr., '72 10/13/2017	Dr. James Goff, '63 12/15/2017
Bill Boyer, '72 3/25/2018	Roger D. Hall, '76 1/25/2018
Jewell Blevins, '60 1/18/2018	Douglas Harrington, '78 2/13/2018
James C. Byers, '70 11/9/2017	Herbert Hoover 3/14/2018
D Campbell, '77 10/5/2017	Roger D. Hughes, '71 2/6/2018
Jordan Cantrell, '12 11/24/2017	Richard Humphrey 4/7/2018
Leona Carter, '69 10/29/2017	Allene Hunt, '66 3/1/2018
James Chittenden, '79 3/19/2018	Shari Janss, '75 12/14/2017
Lisa Clark, '90 3/8/2018	Trudy Jenkins, '71 5/5/2018
Alane (Nutz) Dale, '98 12/23/2017	Jimmy D. Johnson, '96 12/31/2017
Vonna (Elmore) Dilworth 12/10/2017	James Keen, '74 4/24/2018
Gwynn Douglas, '75 3/17/2018	Cynthia Kerr, '70 5/7/2018
Sue Fingerle 4/20/2018	Raymond L. Ketchum, '58 11/21/2017
Dr. Jack Fitzer, '49 1/3/2018	Bryan Lane, '84 5/5/2018
Betty F. Frazier, '75 9/27/2017	Mark Lynch, '98 5/8/2018
	Arnold Macio, '84 8/23/2017

Marlene Macio 8/25/2017
Robert Macmorran, '78 11/16/2017
Brent Mailes, '96 1/14/2018
Hubert Marvin 11/25/2017
Cody McGinnis, '16 9/23/2017
Emmett McFarland, '79 1/2/2018
Gary Mulkey, '72 8/23/2017
Eddie Nealy 3/6/2018
Kenneth Nopwasky, '70 12/10/2017
Clarence Osborn 1/11/2018
Burnace Pence, '55 2/15/2018
Ruth A. Reynolds, '87 9/27/2017
Janice Robertson, '80 4/26/2018
Leonard A. Roten, '50 11/18/2017
Kevin E. Russell, '95 12/13/2017
William Shields, '57 1/19/2018
Sidney Shouse, '72 11/20/2017
Martha Stephens, '57 10/29/2017
Terrence Taylor, '77 3/27/2018
Brian Taylor, '87 4/19/2018
Marianne Terry, '03 7/30/2017

Thomas Thorne 9/9/2017
John Tyler, '55 3/31/2018
James E. West, '73 12/26/2017
Jack Willis, '92 1/25/2018
Joe Yeager 2/25/2018
Patrick A. Wozniak, '70 7/24/2017
Beverly Zerkel, '89 1/31/2018

Barbara J. Garrett 9/16/2017
Norma Garrison 7/8/2017
Anthony Greenwood 4/14/2018
Kathleen Hall 1/4/2018
Joan Johnson 3/27/2018
Joseph Kelly 1/25/2018
Richard F. Kinslow 11/8/2017

FACULTY & STAFF

Dr. Larry Albright <i>Chemistry</i> 1969-2006 2/4/2018
Ethel "Enid" Blevins <i>English</i> 1967-1981 12/8/2017
Jo Ann McCreedy <i>Food Service</i> 12/27/2017
Sidney Shouse, '72 <i>Administration</i> 1968-1993 11/20/2017

Caryl Macmorran 4/2/2018
Mildred Marshall 11/24/2017
Larry McFarland 2/9/2018
Robert Miller 9/13/2017
Marjorie Jane Phinney 3/27/2018
George Shaner 9/27/2017

Shirley Spry 3/13/2018
Paul Thompson 3/15/2018

FRIENDS

Jack Allman 3/2/2018
Betty Barker 12/12/2017
James H. Chilcutt 2/14/2018
Thomas Cusack 3/2/2018
James DeNeen 11/28/2017
Betty Franks 12/14/2017

Jerry Wells 4/28/2018
Glenn Williams 3/6/2018

STUDENTS

Elly Liebenguth 9/20/2017
Vivian Vu 11/23/2017



HEATHER VAN OTTERLOO

Heather Van Otterloo says she remembers the challenges that faced her as a first-generation college student.

A 2005 graduate from the School of Education, she says scholarships were a life-saver when it came to being able to afford going to college.

"I worked really hard growing up to get good grades so I would qualify for scholarships," says Van Otterloo. "Without them, there was no way I could have gone to school all four years."

Today, the Carthage native teaches reading and writing for gifted students at Joplin's South Middle School. Seeing the current crop of student teachers from Missouri Southern in her building served as a reminder of her time as a college student.

She recently became a first-time donor to the university's Green & Gold Fund.

"Since I was a scholarship student, I thought my money could go toward supporting students who are now in the same position I was," she said.

Van Otterloo says she initially entered the education program

with the idea of teaching elementary school.

"I love little kids," she says. "I've taught all the way down to first grade. But meeting other middle-school majors, I just felt like these were my people. The campus size at Missouri Southern was great, and my teachers and advisor wanted the best for me. It felt like we were a community. It was awesome."

Van Otterloo says her ultimate goal is to teach at the university level.

"I was so inspired by my teachers, and I'd love to be able to inspire new teachers," she says. "I want them to know that you don't always have a perfect day, but it's a super worthwhile career."

Alumni donors are up 83% this year! If you haven't made a gift supporting an MSSU program of your choice, please consider joining alums like Heather. Our fiscal year end drive is coming up...look for emails coming your way or visit our secure giving site at www.mssu.edu/giving.

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3950 East Newman Road
Joplin, Missouri 64801

If you are a parent of an alum and they no longer live with you,
please call 417-659-LION or visit www.mssu.edu/alumnicontact
to update their contact information!

HOME COMING 2018

OCTOBER 5-6

Reunion Groups:

1993 Football Team

All-Greek Reunion

We'll be coming to **your** area this Fall!

Look for invitations to events coming soon.

Kansas City | Springfield | Tulsa | Northwest Arkansas | St. Louis

Update your contact information at mssu.edu/alumni



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